

March 12, 2009

E-19J

Mark E. Van Every
District Ranger
Kawishiwi Ranger District
Superior National Forest
1393 Highway 169
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the
Glacier Project, Kawishiwi Ranger District, Superior National Forest
EIS No. 20090036

Dear Mr. Van Every:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the Final EIS and ROD for the Glacier Project. Our review and comments are pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The ROD indicates that a modified version of Alternative 4 was selected as the alternative to implement. The modification includes aspects of Alternative 3 that address comments raised during the public comment periods. Modified Alternative 4 will move the vegetation toward the desired condition as described in the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The U.S. EPA rated the Supplement to the Draft EIS as Lack of Objections in our September 5, 2008 letter. Based upon our review of the Final EIS and ROD, we continue to have no objections. Our 2008 comment letter requested clarification regarding the percent of suitable habitat projected for Northern goshawk following implementation of this project. The response to comments included in the ROD addresses this request.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via email at kowal.kathleen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kenneth A. Wetlake

Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor
NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator